What’s New?

You’ve made this possible!

Strategy

- Embarked on a 6-month strategic planning process to 1) clarify our mission and vision, 2) coalesce our values, 3) and solidify strategic culture, program, staffing, and business plans.
- Cultivated a more equitable organizational culture by working with diversity consultants, exploring our patriarchal inheritance, and adopting a cultural evolution plan.
- Initiated Shmita "slowdown" year to be a more just and regenerative Wilderness Torah, pausing flagship festivals (Tu B’Shvat in the Redwoods, Passover in the Desert, and Shavuot)

Center for Earth-Based Judaism (CEBJ)

- Conducted two powerful in-person design retreats at the future site at Camp Newman, and one virtual session.
- Engaged community members through affinity councils to learn about the needs of marginalized groups, including JOCMS/BIPOC, LGBTQIA2S+, and People with Neurodivergence and/or Disabilities.
- Collected substantial community data to inform the design and partnership with Camp Newman.

Youth Programs

- NEW Zrayim ("seeds") program for young families with children ages 0-5 to launch, fulfilling the youth program pipeline (made possible with generous support provided by the Rodan Family Foundation).
- B’hootz ("outside") program for grades K-5 pivoted to 15 COVID-safe pods across Bay Area and partnered with Temple Emanu-El
- B’naiature ("Children in Nature") for grades 6-8 started 13th season of camping trips, fire circles, rite-of-passage challenges, and parent programs.
- Neshama ("Soul") Quest for grades 9-12 completed three backcountry trips and inspired Adult Neshama Quest, transformational experiences in the wilderness for adults
- Hired new Youth Programs Education Director, Itamar Cohn, who served as Lead Instructor, Course Director, and Trainer for 10 years at Outward Bound California.

Community Programs

- Planning return of transformative community programs:
  - Kabbalat Shabbat - Multiple 2022 dates
  - Rosh Hashanah - September 2022
  - Yom Kippur - October 2022
  - Sukkot - October 2022
  - Passover in the Desert - April 2023
- Hired new Director of Community Programs, Tali Weinberg, an experienced educator, cultural worker, and co-founder of the Urban Adamah farm in Berkeley, CA.

Funding Partners

- San Francisco Jewish Community Federation
- Rodan Family Foundation
- Jim Joseph Foundation
- Walter and Elise Haas Fund
- Opaline Foundation
- Contra Costa JCC
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- Joyce and Irving Goldman Foundation
- Upstart
- Jews of Color Field Building Initiative
- Rise Up, Nathan Cummings Foundation
- Gaia Fund
- Fred Isaac Fund
- Chaiken Foundation
- Libitzky Family Foundation

High holiday participants: 370+
Sukkot participants: 160
CEBJ participants: 100+
B’hootz participants: 90
Neshama Quest participants: 24
B’naiature participants: 21
Funder foundations: 14